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**FRANCESCA FUCHS AWARDED
2006 HUNTING ART PRIZE**

HOUSTON— Hunting PLC announced tonight that Francesca Fuchs, a Houston artist whose works have been exhibited worldwide, has been awarded the \$50,000 Hunting Art Prize for 2006.

As one of the most generous art awards in the country, the Hunting Art Prize was presented at a gala at The Corinthian in Houston.

Fuchs' artwork has been shown in over 40 solo, two-person, or group exhibitions, including galleries in Houston, Galveston, Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio; New York City, Tampa, New Orleans, and Brooklyn; and Prague, Munich, London, and Edinburgh.

She was recently honored with an *ArtadiaHouston* 2006 Award and is the past winner of the Individual Artist Grant from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. In addition to that, Fuchs is also a former Core Artist in Residence at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

“This is a much-deserved honor for an exceptional artist,” said Dennis Proctor, Chief Executive of Hunting, whose North American headquarters are located in Houston. “While we congratulate the winner, we also want to recognize all of the finalists as well. All are committed to a career in art, and they are truly outstanding talents.”

The finalists include eight Houston artists: David Aylsworth, Leamon L. Green Jr., Darra Keeton, Floyd Newsum Jr., Aaron Parazette, Al Souza, Gael Stack, and Frank X. Torbert².

In order to be considered for the Hunting Art Prize, nominees had to reside in the 11-county Greater Houston region for at least two years and have a five-year, post-graduate exhibition record reflecting national exposure.

Fuchs was selected after the second phase of a two-tiered jury process that began in February and ended in March.

The prize relocated to Houston in 2006 after 25 years in Great Britain, where it emerged as one of the U.K.'s leading competitions.

About Hunting PLC

Hunting PLC is an international oil services company providing support solutions to the world's largest oil and gas concerns. Established in 1874, it is a fully listed public company, traded on the London Stock Exchange. For further information, visit www.hunting.plc.uk/. For more information on the Hunting Art Prize, visit www.huntingartprize.com.

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